

American Life Changes Type of Immigrant Children

Under Potent Spell of the New Land, Children of European Immigrants Change Both Physically and Mentally — They Follow What Is Known as the American Type—How Investigations Were Made and the Results Obtained—Nearly 18,000 People Measured. Physical Changes in the Various Types. Other Conclusions of the Immigrant Commission.

MOST startling of all the many conclusions of the investigation is the effect of American life upon the children of the peoples of Europe, for they actually change their type under the potent spell of the new land.

America has long been called the melting pot of the world, the vast crucible into which the immigrants of the earth pour themselves with grateful abandon, to come forth vitalized and modernized and ready to compete with our native sons in all lines of industry. Their adaptability and the facility with which many of them attain enviable success offers profound indication to the advocates of the theory of race amalgamation as advantageous.

Even the earnest patriots who beseech Uncle Sam to close the doors of the United States to all foreigners, keeping America for Americans only, must stand awed and amazed before the convincing proof that America does most thoroughly and completely Americanize not only the children of immigrants but also the adults.

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much has been ascertained, but a small part of the data is conclusive, for the simple reason that the passing of the years adds to the fund of research, as many of the immigrant peoples who seek homes in our land are yet to be studied and observed. Moreover, satisfactory conclusions are obtainable only among the races whose family immigration has occurred, which is among European immigrants.

What is most astonishing in the changes in bodily form which had been found so frequent among the children of immigrant parents, is the fact that the stubborn racial traits are subordinated and modified in conformity with the American type, hence the children who are born just a few years after their parents come to this country, not only acquire a new tongue, new standards, new ideals and new ambitions, but they likewise change in the matters of height, weight, shape of head and face, and even eyes and hair have been found to depart from the type of their nationality.

Thus, while the facial and physical features of the parents and adult members of the families remain true to their activity, the children who were either in infancy or very young develop into a different type from the father and mother, but not to such a contrasting degree as has been found to be true of the children who are born after the parents have been ten years or more in America.

In such instances the facial and physical differences between brothers and sisters are decidedly perceptible, for the American-born youngsters show the native type altered or modified to follow what is considered the American type.

That such changes should occur so quickly is truly a marvel when it is remembered that at home in their native land the characteristics of a race remain permanent through generations after generation, and these stable and hereditary traits are cherished as the distinctive lines of demarcation that stand as signposts of nationality. These, by all of the accepted laws of centuries of belief, are supposed to stand steadfast and unalterable, as long as there is no mixing of races.

While the question of the assimilation of immigrants under American conditions has long been considered vital and been much discussed, very little accurate information was obtained that explained the gradual change in the habits of life of immigrants; and little or no effort was made to account for the apparent effect upon the children of these immigrants.

It was suggested to the Immigration Commission, whose special mission was to discover all the phases and ramifications of the immigrant question, that if the measurements of the bodies of European immigrants and their descendants could be taken at different ages and under different conditions, much valuable information might be

obtained. The idea was at once adopted. It was, of course, necessary that any such method of procedure should be directed by scientific anthropometrists; and, accordingly, Prof. Franz Boas of Columbia University was invited to direct the investigation.

As there is a difference in American environment in large cities and small towns and rural communities, and as it seemed all important to ascertain the conditions of life in the congested portions of our large cities, New York seemed to offer a uniform environment. There, also, the foreign population was large and varied.

In planning the investigation, only such measurements were selected as would be characteristic in defining the stage of development and the regular racial types of each group. Hence the weight, height, general physiological development of the individual were selected to give data for the first part, and a record was made of the length and width of head, width of face and the color of hair, eyes and skin.



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mother finds her family a succession of surprises. Her older children, born in the fatherland, manifest no such marked tendencies to depart from the traditions of family and race as the youngsters seem possessed of. To the younger ones America is proudly their birthplace; they quickly despise and discard the old customs of their fathers and grandfathers, and even the native tongue for that of their schoolmates. Mother and father must perform, amidst many pangs and misgivings, yield one by one their cherished household gods of habit, from generations of ancestors, to the ruthless hands of the modernized boys and girls who have but one ambition—to be all American.

In the schools they feel keenly the criticism of the other children over their old world clothes and manners, and they are the teachers' surest ally in getting themselves relieved of the sewing-up process that marks the advent of winter clothes. Bathing their bodies and clean clothes come naturally, and the haste with which they acquire a knowledge of American customs and abandon their own tongue for the language of the new land is both a joy and a sorrow to the mother, who patriotically watches her little flock drift away from her and all of the fixed moorings of their family life.

Compensation comes in the realization of their rapid progress, and she, too, presently joins the ranks, discarding her many skirts and old shawls and falls into line with American conditions.

Many of the investigators of these wonderful changes in the bodies of immigrant children have endeavored to attach some importance to the manner of raising the babies during the first few months of their lives. In eastern Europe the Jews, as well as the Bohemians, swathe their new-born infants with roller bandages from the shoulders down to the ankles. The child is then usually placed flat on his back on a soft pillow or cushion, and the swathing is continued for at least three months, sometimes as long as six or even longer, if the child is a weakling.

This position may be given some credit for influencing the shape of the child's head, but the very thing that immigrant mothers discard this form of swaddling entirely.

Bohemian infants are swaddled from the shoulders down, and for the first four to six weeks of the child's life the arms are held straight in order to insure their being straight. Caps are tied on to keep the ears flat. The child's head rests upon pillows and the child is carried about on a cushion. The children are carried to baptism in their swaddling clothes. These people do not abandon this custom immediately, but gradually discontinue it.

On the other hand, the Neapolitan and Sicilian children are most thoroughly swathed and kept so frequently until

the poor, bewildered, foreign-born accept the money on the grounds that the charter act was unconstitutional, and the company applied to the state courts for a "writ of mandamus" to compel him to accept. The writ was denied by the lower court, and before appeal was heard by the New York Court of Appeals—On May 8, 1913, the legislature repealed the charter act. The Court of Appeals considered not the charter act of 1907 and the 1913 repealing act, finally holding that the 1907 act was unconstitutional on the ground that the grant was of the control of navigation and as that control was held by the state in its sovereign capacity, it was beyond the power of the legislature to divest itself of it by voluntary grant.

Justice Pitney granted a writ by which the case was brought to the Supreme Court of the United States for review.



Slavs just arriving in the land of liberty? With them the lure of the fatherland is not so strong as with the men, nor are they satisfied to remain in the old country if they do return. They claim that the rush and energy of the Yankees gets in their blood and they miss it so that they must return to stay.

From the southern European races, where the larger percentage of the immigration has been of the men alone, conditions seldom improve much. Lacking the family life, they do not assimilate with Americans, but herd together in communities or boarding groups where some immigrant and wife run a boarding place.

Living in this manner these Greeks, Turks and many Slavs contribute nothing to the advance of the country. They do not spend more than a third of their earnings, they do not patronize American banks nor sympathize with American problems. They simply work with the facilities America offers as a means to an end, which is to make all they can, save all they can and then go back home to enjoy it.

It is a noteworthy fact that investigation proved that a comparison between young Greek girls and the average group of matinee girls of this country would result in the acknowledged superiority of the Greek girl upon all physical points.

Unfortunately the commission was not able to obtain data to prove the effects of American environment upon American-born children of Greek parents.

Vice President Marshall is Opposed

Jacob H. Schiff of New York Urges "a Stronger Candidate" for Vice President—Henry Morgenthau to do All He Can to Swing the Convention for Secretary of War Baker for Second Place on the Ticket—Gompers to Ask Inclusion of Fourteen Labor Planks in the Democratic Platform.

St. Louis, June 12.—The right of the supreme lodge, Knights of Pythias, under its constitution, to re-rotate members in 1916, with a resulting increase in dues for "fourth class members" was sustained today by the supreme court.

Disappointed Patriots. Much to the disappointment of certain patriots, Mr. Justice Brandeis did not grant the proceedings of inauguration by shirking a bond—Philadelphia, June 12.

A clean package can be a good example to the family.

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Niagara Falls on the American side develop only 210,000 horse-power. It is claimed that the maximum power developments at Niagara plus those on the Long Sault project could supply energy to move every wheel and furnish light to every lamp in the state of New York. The value of the 600,000 horse-power at Long Sault has been estimated at \$130,000,000.

The charter creating the Long Sault Development Company is a subsidiary of the American Trust, and owing to the opposition before Congress of the advocates of water power conservation for the benefit of the people, and to the protests of Canadian municipalities and public associations, the Long Sault Company has not been able to secure the passage of any of the bills containing the consent of the federal government to the construction of the dams.

On March 29, 1911, the New York Senate adopted a resolution requesting the Attorney General of the state to give an opinion on the constitutionality of the special act creating the charter. On December 30, 1912, the Attorney General rendered an opinion that the act was unconstitutional. On January 13, 1913, Governor Sulzer sent to the legislature a message urging the repeal of the act, granting the charter. A week later the company sent to the state treasurer \$25,000, being the amount to be paid the state when the project was abandoned. The treasurer refused to

accept the money on the grounds that the charter act was unconstitutional, and the company applied to the state courts for a "writ of mandamus" to compel him to accept. The writ was denied by the lower court, and before appeal was heard by the New York Court of Appeals—On May 8, 1913, the legislature repealed the charter act. The Court of Appeals considered not the charter act of 1907 and the 1913 repealing act, finally holding that the 1907 act was unconstitutional on the ground that the grant was of the control of navigation and as that control was held by the state in its sovereign capacity, it was beyond the power of the legislature to divest itself of it by voluntary grant.

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The Chief Need. The Democrats at Washington are preparing to raise \$150,000,000 more revenue. Optimistic Republicans believe that the chief Democratic need at present is to raise about a million more Democrats.—Chicago Herald.

Ho, Hum. Now that President Wilson has declared in favor of "universal voluntary training," possibly he will come out for prohibition for persons who don't want to drink.—Philadelphia North American.

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From the Consular Reports. Last year's production of feldspar in this country showed an actual decrease in quantity, although a greatly increased value.

Much of Felspar is now entirely dependent upon Russia for its foreign goods.

South Manchester.—Van Verplanck is honor from Johns Hopkins university for the year 1915.

Will Change Their Minds. Europe naturally shed a little at Mr. Wilson's peace talk, but there may come a time when it will walk right up to that sort of thing without blunders.—Chicago News.

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Over one hundred thousand have recommended Doan's Kidney Pills. For backache, kidney, urinary ills. Forty thousand signed testimonials are appearing now in public print. Some of them are Norwich people. Some are published in Norwich. No other remedy shows such proof. Follow this Norwich woman's example.

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